

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 14 are pending. Applicants cancel claims 7 and 8 without prejudice or disclaimer, and amend claims 1, 6 and 9. No new matter is introduced. Support for the amendments may be found in Applicants' specification, for example, at page 8, lines 7 - 8 and page 8, line 37 to page 9, line 16.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO PRIORITY CLAIM

As the priority claim and receipt of the certified copy of the priority document (JP Patent Publication No. 2000-3101673) are not explicitly acknowledged in the Office Action of March 15, 2005, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner provide a formal acknowledgement as to the priority claim and receipt of the certified copy of the priority document in the next Office Communication in regard to the present application.

OBJECTION TO DRAWING

The drawing is objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(p)(5) as including reference characters not specifically mentioned in the specification. Specifically, the Examiner cites reference numeral H6 in FIG. 14. Applicants amend the specification to mention reference numeral H6, and respectfully request that this objection be withdrawn.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §§ 112

Claims 6 is rejected under the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112 as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Specifically, the Examiner finds that, in distinction to the limitations recited by claim 6, the specification teaches that the registration of sub-group data should occur prior to obtaining measurement data when the shot button is pressed. Applicants

amend claim 6 to clarify that sub-group registration may occur when a shot button is pressed by each member of the subgroup prior to making at a tee shot, and refer the Examiner to page 14, lines 28 – 37 of Applicants' specification for support of the amended claim language.

Claims 6 and 8 are rejected under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite. Specifically, with respect to claim 6, the Examiner finds unclear the object for registering the sub-group in the data storage unit based on measurement data. With reference again to page 14, lines 28 – 37 of Applicants' specification, Applicants respectfully submit that by pressing the shot button prior to making a tee shot, each member of a sub-group (defined as the set of "accompanying" players at the hole) sends location information enabling the data center to determine that each of the members is reporting from a single location and therefore belongs to a single sub-group

With respect to claim 8, the Examiner finds the limitation expressing the "distribution processing unit that determines store data" is vague and unsupported by the specification. Applicants cancel claim 8 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of claims 6 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 be withdrawn.

#### REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1 - 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,507,485 to Fisher. Applicants cancel claims 7 and 8 without prejudice or disclaimer, amend independent claims 1 and 9 to further clarify the nature of their invention, and respectfully traverse this rejection.

In amended independent claim 1, Applicants disclose:

1. A golf data management system comprising:

a portable communication terminal; and  
a data center that transmits data to and receives data from the portable communication terminal via a communication network,

wherein

the portable communication terminal comprises:

a recording unit that records play data including a score and measurement data obtained by measuring a position of a shot or a putt by a measuring unit;

a transmission unit that adds an individual identification number of a player who carries the portable communication terminal to the play data recorded by the recording unit, and transmits the play data to the data center via the communication network after holing out of each hole; and

a display unit that stores the data transmitted from the data center via the communication network, and displays the stored data, and

the data center comprises:

an individual data storage unit that stores and manages practice result data and the play data corresponding to the individual identification number in accordance with each golf course and each play date;

a common data storage unit that stores course map data of a plurality of golf courses; and

an output unit that outputs the play data stored in the individual data storage unit in response to a request from the portable communication terminal,

wherein said portable communication terminal is carried by each player and is connectable to a separate input device via a signal line, infrared signal or radio-frequency signal, and is configured to receive at least a portion of the play data from the separate input device.

(Emphasis added)

Fisher discloses a golf computer having scoring, shot advice and replay capabilities (see, e.g., abstract of Fisher). The golf computer of Fisher is capable of storing and providing map data, receiving play data, and responding to a course map request or play data request (see, e.g., column 9, lines 15 – 52 of Fisher). A cart-based golf computer 14 has a keypad 17 and a display means 10, and is mounted on a golf cart 10 (see, e.g. column 5, line 52 – column 6, line 27 of Fisher). The cart-based computer and golf cart are shared by a plurality of users. In addition, Fisher suggests that an interactive display and input device (for example, APPLE's NEWTON device) as the computer.

However, in sharp contrast to Applicants' claimed invention, Fisher fails to disclose or otherwise suggest Applicants' claimed portable communication terminal that is carried by each player and is connectable for a separate input device used to input at least a portion of the play data. By electing to have each player carry his or her own portable information terminal, Applicants' claimed invention simplifies user identification over Fisher, where the computer is shared by a number of users. While the Newton device suggested by Fisher is essentially portable, Fisher in addition fails to disclose or suggest Applicants' claimed separate input device for more easily operating the portable communication terminal. By inputting at least some of the play data to the portable communications terminal via the separate input device, usability of Applicant's claimed system having a portable communication terminal for each golfer is improved.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that amended independent claim 1 is not made obvious by Fisher, and is therefore in condition for allowance. Applicants apply essentially the same arguments to amended independent claim 9, which incorporates essentially the same limitations as claim 1 with respect to the use of the claimed separate input device. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 9 is also in condition for allowance.

As dependent claims 2 – 6 and 10 - 14 each depend from one of allowable claims 1 and 9, Applicants further submit that dependent claims 2 – 6 and 10 - 14 are also allowable at least for this reason.

#### CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider

this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

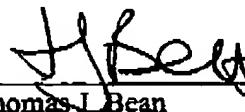
Respectfully submitted,

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